second instalment of Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund for 2004-05 amounting to Rs. 45.14 crores (due in November, 2004) was released to the State in advance for expenditure on calamity relief works.

Utilisation of Funds by States

1350. SHRIMATI JAMANADEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanctioning Committee of the recently set up Agriculture Credit Fund has sanctioned Rs. 176 crores to various States for projects relating to minor irrigation, soil and water conservation, flood protection and agro-forestry;

(b) if so, the amount provided to each State under this scheme; and

(c) to what extent these funds have been utilised uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In the first meeting of the Sanctioning Committee of the Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund, Rs. 176 crore has been sanctioned to 9 States as per details given below:

S^ No	Name of State	Sector	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Crore)
1.	Bihar	Medium Irrigation components	12.73
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Irrigation & Flood Protection	22.48
3.	Karnataka	Minor Irrigation, Soil & Water Conservation	46.87
4.	Kerala	-do-	3.90
. 5.	Nagaland	Agro-Forestry	4.51
6.	Orissa	Minor Irrigation and Flood Protection	62.27
7.	Tripura	Cold Storage	3.17
8.	Uttaranchal	Minor Irrigation	3.47
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Flood Protection	16.60
	TOTAL		176.00

(c) The funds were sanctioned in March 2004 and would be utilized by the State Governments in a period of three years.

Interest on External Debt

†1351. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are paying a major part of their revenue as interest every year due to increasing burden of debt;

(b) if so, the annual amount paid as interest during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of this amount, out of the total annual amount collected as tax by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The details of interest payments of the Government of India on external debt together with total revenue/ tax revenue during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04RE
1.	Interest Payments on external debt	4,285	4,252	3,143
2.	Total Revenue	2,01,306	2,31,748	2,63,027
3.	Tax Revenue	1,33,532	1,59,425	1,87,539
4.	Interest payments as a proportion of Total Revenue(%)	2.13	1.83	1.19
5.	Interest payments as a proportion of Tax Revenue(%)	3.21	2.67	1.68

RE : Revised Estimates.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.